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COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS

By E. M. CLARK

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WHAT PRESENT MEMBERS THINK OF COW TESTING
ASSOCIATIONS

“The Association is certainly a benefit to me and to all of the members.”

“You know what each cow is doing and you can feed them accordingly and cull out the poorer ones.”

“Under present conditions to keep cows without losing money, a man should raise alfalfa, have a silo, and belong to a testing association. Without any one of these he is rather up against it.”

“Before I joined a cow testing association, I was sure some of my cows were losing me money; but I did not know which ones they were. Now I know just what each cow is producing and what profit or loss she is returning.”

COW TESTING ASSOCIATIONS

BY E. M. CLARK, FIRST ASSISTANT IN MILK PRODUCTION

There is, and probably always will be, a large field for improvement in the milk production of dairy cows. Rapid increases in the average yearly production per cow are possible. This can be brought about by gradually selling the low-producing animals, by better breeding, and by using better sires. There is only one way in which the production of a cow can be determined accurately, and that is to weigh and test the milk produced. Any farmer can do this and keep his own records, but a less expensive and more satisfactory method is thru the aid of a cow testing association.

WHAT IS A COW TESTING ASSOCIATION?

A cow testing association is an organization of several dairy farmers formed for the purpose of increasing the production and profits of the association herds.

One of the activities of a cow testing association is to furnish milk, fat, and feed records of each individual cow in each herd in the association. From these records the profitable and unprofitable cows can be determined. By the elimination of the unprofitable cows from the herd, the profits in the dairy business will be increased.

By hiring a competent cow tester, qualified to help solve the feeding, breeding, managing, and other vital problems of the individual dairyman, the dairy industry as a whole can be improved.

A cow testing association may, in time, be used by its members as an agency for the cooperative buying and selling of feeds, stock, etc.

HOW A COW TESTING ASSOCIATION WORKS

A man experienced in dairying and qualified to manipulate the Babcock butter-fat test is hired by the association to obtain records on each cow in all the herds of the association members. This man is called the cow tester, and he visits each herd once each month. The cow tester usually reaches a farm in the afternoon in order to be on hand at the evening milking. He proceeds as follows:

1. Weighs all feed given to each cow that evening.
2. Weighs and samples the milk from each cow that evening.
3. Weighs feed given to each cow the next morning.
4. Again weighs and samples each cow's milk.
5. Tests samples of milk of each cow for percent of butter fat.

6. Computes total feed consumed for the month by each cow, using weights obtained as an average.
7. Computes total milk produced for the month by each cow, using the weights obtained as an average.
8. Computes butter fat produced for the month by each cow, using the average test as the test for the month.
9. At the end of the test year he computes profit or loss for each cow by charging the animal for feed consumed, figured at market prices, and crediting her with milk and fat produced.

Upon the completion of this work, the cow tester goes to the next herd. In case the distance to the next herd is not great, the owner of the herd just tested transports the tester to that place.

HOW TO START A COW TESTING ASSOCIATION

To be operated to the best advantage, a cow testing association should consist of about twenty-six dairymen who own approximately five hundred cows.

Proceed in the following fashion if you think there is need for a cow testing association in your community: Talk the matter over with some of your neighbors and see if enough interest in the project can be aroused to warrant the calling of a meeting of the dairymen in your neighborhood. Before the date is set, get in touch with a representative of the Dairy Department, College of Agriculture, Urbana, Illinois, who will arrange with you a time when he can be present at the meeting. That representative will explain in detail the operation of the association work, and will aid you in organizing if an association seems possible.

WHAT IT COSTS TO TEST A COW

A cow testing association is beneficial primarily to its members, and therefore should be self-supporting. The amount it costs per cow will depend on the number of cows in the association and the salary paid the cow tester. At present a flat rate of \$1.50 per cow per year is being charged, with a minimum herd charge of \$15. To some dairymen the charges may seem high; but that it pays to have the herd tested is evidenced by the increased production which results. For instance, in the McLean Cow Testing Association in four years' time the average production was increased by 1,052 pounds of milk and 52 pounds of fat per cow per year. Is not that increase worth more than the cost of testing?

While the cow records may be obtained by the dairyman himself, yet such records can be obtained more economically thru the aid of a cow tester.

The Dairy Department of the State University furnishes the association with a testing outfit, record blanks, and record books free of charge in return for a copy of the data obtained.

SOME RESULTS OBTAINED

IN ILLINOIS

York-Fairhaven Cow Testing Association

During the fourth year of this association the average increase in production per cow was 1,411 pounds of milk and 53 pounds of fat over the average production per cow in the first year.

McLean Cow Testing Association

The average increase per cow in the fourth year as compared with the first year was 1,052 pounds of milk and 52 pounds of fat.

IN CALIFORNIA

Ferndale Cow Testing Association

The average production per cow in the third year was 990 pounds of milk and 40 pounds of fat more than in the first year.

IN MICHIGAN

Newaygo County Dairy Testing Association

During the fourth year the average increase per cow was 835 pounds of milk and 50 pounds of fat over that produced in the first year.

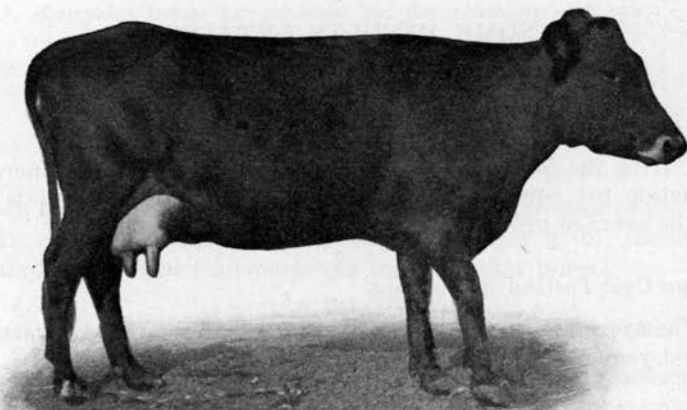
IN SWEDEN

After ten years' work a cow testing association in Sweden reported that the average production per cow had been increased by 3,174 pounds of milk and 100 pounds of fat.

Wherever a cow testing association has been operating for a number of years, an increased production in milk and fat per cow has been obtained, which naturally results in increased prosperity for the members of the association.

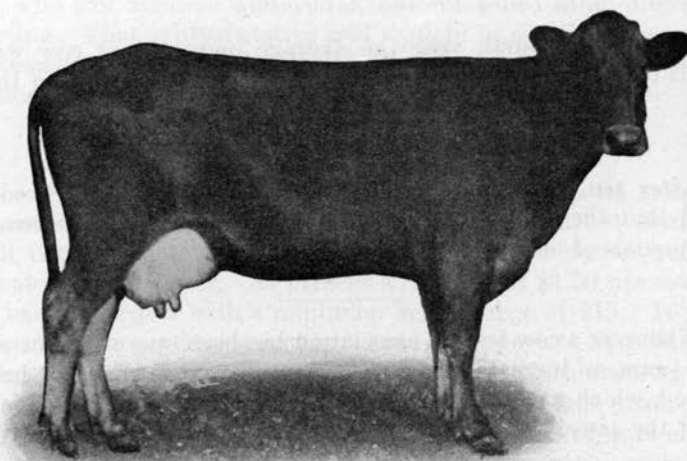
WHICH IS THE BETTER COW?

These cows were stall mates in the same herd.



Yearly record:

Milk	Fat	Months in milk	Feed cost per lb. fat
3,522	180	11	21.44



Yearly record:

Milk	Fat	Months in milk	Feed cost per lb. fat
9,138	413	10½	10.84

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS FOR COOPERATIVE COW TESTING ASSOCIATION¹

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I—NAME

The name of this Association shall be.....
..... COOPERATIVE COW TESTING ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II—OBJECT

The object of this Association shall be to provide means and methods for improving the dairy qualities of the herds of members, thru the periodical weighing and testing of each cow's milk, which will give reliable information on the basis of which unprofitable cows may be eliminated and feeding done more economically; and further, by ascertaining the profit or loss as compared with the cost of feed for each cow in the herd thru a monthly record of the value of her product and of the cost of the feed she consumes during the year; and in general to promote the dairy interests of the members.

ARTICLE III—PLACE OF BUSINESS

The principal office and place of business of this Association shall be at

ARTICLE IV—MEMBERSHIP

This Association shall be composed of dairymen or owners of dairy herds, acceptable to the board of directors. All members enter their herds for record, affix their signatures to the agreement, and agree to comply with the by-laws.

ARTICLE V—ORGANIZATION

The governing body of this Association shall consist of a board of directors of seven active members to be elected at each..... annual meeting. The board of directors shall annually elect from their own number a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and treasurer whose duties shall be those usually devolving upon such officers. The first election of such officers shall be held immediately after the election of the board. Subsequent elections shall be held annually on the day of the regular meeting of the board next ensuing after the annual election, the day to be fixed by the resolution of the board of directors. Officers and directors shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE VI—BUSINESS

The authority to conduct the business of the Association shall be vested in the board of directors, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum.

¹From a form furnished by the United States Department of Agriculture.

ARTICLE VII—ELECTION

Election of all officers and directors shall be by ballot and majority vote.

ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members of the Association present at any annual meeting.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I—MEETINGS

Section I. An annual meeting of this Association shall be held at a place and time designated by the board of directors in..... on the first Tuesday of the month preceding the month in which this Association shall begin actual work, for the purpose of electing a board of directors and for the transaction of such other business as may lawfully come before the said meeting.

Section II. The president shall call one meeting every month, to be held at some member's home or elsewhere, for the purpose of discussing topics of interest to dairymen, and shall, at each meeting, appoint a committee of three members who shall prepare a program for the next meeting. No member shall be obliged to serve on two successive program committees.

Section III. The president or board of directors, acting thru the secretary, may call a special meeting at any time. If the special meeting is for the transaction of some special business, the secretary must mail each member a written or printed notice thereof at least five days prior to such meeting. Such notice shall state the object of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat.

Section IV. All meetings of the board of directors shall be called by the secretary on the order of the president or three members of the board.

ARTICLE II—BUSINESS

The board of directors shall have the management and control of the business of the Association. They may employ such agents as they deem advisable, fix the rates of compensation, and make contracts with all such agents and employees.

ARTICLE III—VACANCIES

Whenever any vacancies occur in the board of directors by death, resignation, or otherwise, the same shall be filled without undue delay by the majority vote of the remaining members of the board. The person so chosen shall hold office until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV—ARREARS OF DUES

No member whose dues, as stated in the agreement, are sixty days in arrears shall be allowed to vote at any business meeting.

ARTICLE V—ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Reading of minutes of previous meetings
2. Report of the secretary
3. Report of the treasurer
4. Report of the committees
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
7. Election of officers

ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any regular meeting.

MEMBERS' AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATIVE COW TESTING ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the COOPERATIVE COW TESTING ASSOCIATION is organized for the purpose of providing means for the cooperation of its members in ascertaining the relative merits of their cows, and in the economical production of dairy products; and

WHEREAS, the Association agrees, from monthly tests (twenty-four hours in length) made by an employe of the Association, to furnish each member with a record of the individual performance of each animal subscribed, and to advise the members in regard to economical feeding and the improvement of their herds; and

WHEREAS, we by the act of affixing our signatures below express our desire of becoming members of said Association for the object above stated;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of our admission to membership and the services above mentioned, we make this agreement with said Association and with the other persons who are now or shall hereafter become members of said Association;

WE SEVERALLY AGREE and promise to pay to the treasurer of the Association the sum of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for one year's record of each and every one of the cows in our respective herds as entered below opposite our signatures; with the following provisos, namely: That the charge for one herd shall not be less than fifteen dollars (\$15); and that the tester shall not test more than thirty cows (30) in one day, but shall give two or more days' service each month, in proportion to the number of cows in the herd, if larger than thirty; and we severally agree to pay for the yearly records of our herds on this basis. It is agreed that the rate of payment for additional cows entered after the year is begun shall be fifteen (15) cents per month per cow, or \$1.50 per cow for the remainder of the year, at the option of the owner.

WE AGREE that if any cow in the test dies or is sold from the herd before the year is ended, there shall be no reduction in the amount to be paid; but another cow may be substituted in place of the sold or dead cow. Aside from this no cow shall be replaced by another, in the number of cows undergoing the test. Before the second test the secretary shall be notified of the admission of all new cows, whether substituted for ones previously in test or entered as additional cows.

WE SEVERALLY AGREE to make payments for such testing semiannually, the first payment to be due on or before the last day of the month in which the tester begins actual work, and the second payment to be due on or before the last day of the sixth month thereafter. And we severally agree to take or send the money to the treasurer of the Association without being called on therefor.

WE FURTHER AGREE to furnish board and lodging for the man employed as tester by said Association for at least one day of each month, and over Sunday and holidays, at the house to which his regular course brings him on Saturday or the day before a holiday; and to convey him to his next place of work or to stable and feed his horse while he is staying at the farm in lieu of furnishing him transportation to his next place of work.

WE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY AGREE to be subject to the by-laws of this Association.

This agreement is not binding unless the said Association secures a sufficient number of cows to warrant starting operations.

The term of this agreement shall be ONE YEAR from the time testing begins.

For the.....

Cooperative Cow Testing Association

Attest

.....

Secretary

.....

President

SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS

No.	Date	Signature	Number of cows	Amount to be paid
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				